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## **CITY OF BRANSON**

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# ***News Release***

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## **City to install energy-efficient lights with federal grant money** ***City Hall, utilities and RecPlex to realize energy savings***

The city of Branson will share in a \$175,000 federal grant received by Taney County intended to reduce the energy use and costs of cities and counties. Branson will receive \$119,000 of the grant with \$59,000 coming in the form of grant funding, and the balance being paid off with in-kind labor for installation, equipment and projected energy savings.

With this grant, the city is focusing on upgrading the fluorescent light fixtures in City Hall and the Pacific Street Water Tower that houses the Utility Department offices in addition to replacing the parking lot lights at the RecPlex with LED bulbs.

At City Hall and the Pacific Street Water Tower, the old T-12 fluorescent lamps and ballast now being used will be changed to the newer, more efficient T-8 lamps and ballast. A total of 184 fixtures in City Hall and 62 fixtures at the water tower will be upgraded.

The city also included changing out a total of 165 incandescent bulbs with more efficient compact fluorescent bulbs at both facilities.

At the Branson RecPlex, the grant will pay for retrofitting the parking lot lights with longer lasting, energy efficient LED lights.

"We will realize energy savings enough to off-set the total cost of the retro-fit within 10 years, as required by the grant," said Branson Parks and Recreation Director Cindy Shook. "We're estimating a savings in our energy costs of \$6,635 a year."

City officials say switching out the lights with the new technology puts Branson on the cutting edge of LED lighting. Shook said there are only a handful of other communities in the country that have this type of lighting.

The grant is a Public Building Energy Efficiency Retrofits Grant through the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act's "Energize Missouri Communities." Besides Branson, other participants and beneficiaries of the energy grant include Taney County; Hollister, Mark Twain and Kirbyville schools; Taney County Health; Western Taney County Fire and Taney County Airport.